

College secures funding for Black History Month



Lethbridge College Students Theresa Ogaosun (left), Sharon Boit (centre) and Raihau-Milz Izonyobore (right) as part of the black community gathered to commemorate the Black History Month celebrations. The college planned events through February to bring community engagement and spread the knowledge on history of the Black descent in Canada. Photo by Sarah Mfinanga. Read story page 3.



Over 300 exhibitors attended this year's event, which showcase the advancements in agriculture.
Photo by Jesse Wikdahl.

Lethbridge Ag Expo blends innovation and tradition in agriculture

Story by Jesse Wikdahl

The Lethbridge Ag Expo, hosted by the Lethbridge & District Exhibition and Agri-food Hub and Trade Centre, concluded on a high note on Feb. 29, marking a successful week of showcasing the latest in agricultural technology, services and education.

With over 300 exhibitors from across the globe, the expo has solidified its status as a premier agricultural exhibition in Western Canada, offering an extensive platform for industry professionals to explore, network and discover the latest the agriculture sector has to offer.

Joshua Leith, the AgEnt program coordinator at Lethbridge College, who represented the college's Centre for Applied Research, Innovation and Entrepreneurship program, praised the event for its unparalleled opportunity to highlight the college's diverse agricultural programs.

"It was a very busy few days of attracting attention to the college's diverse ag programs," Leith said.

"The expo allowed us to showcase our advancements in agricultural education and research and to connect with industry professionals, prospective students and those passionate about shaping the future of agriculture," he added.

Lloyd Brierley, co-chairperson of the Lethbridge and District Exhibition and City Manager, emphasized the expo's role in driving innovation within the agricultural sector.

"Agriculture is the backbone of southern Alberta and the Ag Expo serves as a vital platform for the industry to come together and explore the latest advancements and technologies," Brierley stated. "We are proud to host an event that supports the growth and sustainability of agriculture across the region and beyond."

Farmers and attendees appreciated the broad spectrum of products, technologies and services on display. Jim Hofer, an experienced farmer and attendee of this year's expo, says it's an event he looks forward to every year.

"It's not just about seeing the latest in farm machinery and technology. It's a good place to learn, share stories and connect with others in the industry," says Hofer.

From cutting-edge technology displays like drones and advanced satellite modeling systems to the traditional North American Seed Fair, the expo catered to all facets of the agricultural industry. Exhibitors ranged from global giants in crop science and agri-tech to local startups offering innovative solutions for sustainable farming practices.

The conversations, connections and innovations sparked during the event are just beginning to take root. With the agricultural landscape constantly evolving, the expo serves as a crucial catalyst for change, driving the conversation on how best to feed a growing world in sustainable and efficient ways.

See full story on LethbridgeCampusMedia.ca



Vibrant and powerful symbols adorn the college campus as it proudly showcases Black History Month. It was an opportunity to celebrate the rich cultural heritage and contributions of the Black community. Photo by Sarah Mfinanga

College secures funding for Black History Month

Story by Sarah Mfinanga

Throughout Canada there has been an increase of post-secondary international students. One of the benefits of a diverse student population is the opportunity to learn about a new culture.

Lethbridge College celebrated Black History Month through February to bring community engagement and share knowledge across campus.

However, in a groundbreaking move aimed at enriching campus diversity and celebrating cultural heritage, Trudi Mason, dean of the centre for Justice and Human Services secured a substantial grant to help the Black History Month events.

Ibrahim Turay, PhD, a Lethbridge instructor in the School of Justice, said their centre's Dean secured a \$5,000 grant after putting together a successful proposal last year.

"Individuals from various departments within the college employees. We meet with this group of employees from around campus to think about what we need knowing we have this amount, what type of event that students who identify themselves as black within the college community, how would they want to celebrate? And so, we come up with a list of ideas and those ideas get plotted within the month of February," said Turay.

The infusion of financial support, gathered through collaborative efforts with community organizations and corporate sponsors, made a transfor-

mative effort towards fostering a more vibrant and inclusive campus environment.

From thought-provoking panel discussions to captivating guest lectures, the college's Black History Month events were a multifaceted showcase of cultural exploration and enlightenment embracing the richness of African heritage.

Central to the month-long festivities are interactive workshops and seminars tailored to foster critical discourse on issues of ethnicity, identity and social justice.

Through open dialogue and interdisciplinary engagement, participants were encouraged to confront prevailing narratives, challenge systemic inequities and explore avenues for collective progress.

Theresa Ogaosun, a Lethbridge College general art and science student said the celebrations of Black History Month at the college and Canada in general are good ways to educate the community and mark the history of her people.

"All the fight that we fought to get to where we are, to get the recognition that we have as a race.

Mostly it's about our culture, who we are and, what sets us apart as the black community," said Ogaosun. Moreover, Canadian Heritage chose Black Excellence as theme for this year's Black History Month, a heritage to celebrate, a future to build. This theme aimed at celebrating the rich past and present contributions of black people in Canada. See full story at LethbridgeCampusMedia.ca



Janet Opoku-Ware and Charity Okafor study in Centre Core, Lethbridge College. Photo by Tosin Liadi.

The many reasons for city's growing diversity

Story by Tosin Liadi

Lethbridge is known for its pleasant summers and mild winters. It stands as the third-largest community in Alberta based on Municipal census data. The city has experienced consistent growth as compiled by Economic Development Lethbridge with its population rising from 96,828 in 2016 to 101,148 in 2021.

The rapid growth of Lethbridge has a lot to do with drawing in a significant number of migrants. International migration, accounting for 1,412 people was identified as the primary driver of this growth. The international migration was not only experienced in the city, the educational institutions in the city also witnessed this growth. Muneer Nazam, an international student support coordinator at Lethbridge College was once a student three years ago. He saw that things are much better now compared to a few years ago when he studied at the college.

"There are more than 51 countries represented on campus. In 2021, I think when I came here, it was between 600 to 700 international students on

campus at that time. But this year there are almost 1,200 international students," said Nazam.

Several factors contribute to Lethbridge's appeal to immigrants. The city offers a lower cost of living compared to other places in Alberta, providing residents with affordability and a comfortable lifestyle. Josephine Ibrahim, a migrant Lethbridge resident corroborated the claim that one of the reasons she moved to Lethbridge was because of its affordability and the warm winters experienced in the city which encouraged her and her family relocate from Edmonton.

Immigrant businesses and culture have flourished with an increase in the opening of authentic restaurants and stores. The diversity has also addressed the labour shortage experienced by employers in the city, with immigrants filling positions and contributing to the increased enrollment in public institutions.

Overall, Lethbridge's attractiveness to immigrants is many-sided, encompassing factors such as affordability, education, economic opportunities and much more. See full story at LethbridgeCampusMedia.ca

International students have challenges in staying and working in Canada

Story by Ma. Janine Doroca

As the international student population continues to soar at post-secondary institutions across Canada, they become a vital element of the Canadian workforce, helping to address the skilled labour shortages. According to Statistics Canada, the percentage of international students who participate in the labour market have increased from seven per cent in 2000 to 57 per cent in 2018 while they study. However, international students have faced challenges and difficulties as working students, from adjusting to a new culture to dealing with the complexities of work and study.

Jean Kristoffer Alvarez, an international student pursuing exercise science at Lethbridge College hails from the Philippines. He chose to study in Lethbridge for its affordability and for accommodation that allows members of his family to also be present. Alvarez admits the difficulties of being an international student remain despite having family support around him. Balancing his academic responsibilities and the demands of work are challenging for him.

"Being an international student is exhausting. You need to balance studying and working at the same time so I can pay my tuition fees and other bills. But I've learned that the key is effective time management," Alvarez admitted.

Alvarez appreciates Lethbridge College for its supportive services and projects tailored to the needs of international students.

Lethbridge College offers different support services that international and local students can reach out to. The college has wellness services as well as the Lethbridge College Students' Association, academic advising and student awards which help the students with their needs.

Muneer Nazam, an international student coordinator also at the college, described the common



Jean Kristoffer Alvarez, balancing his academic and professional responsibility, heads to work after a long day of classes, demonstrating a commitment and dedication for success. Photo by Ma. Janine Doroca.

challenges faced by international students.

"Being an international student in a completely new country is not easy and there is always some challenges you have to face. From those challenges we learn. Most of the challenges are for those who are by themselves and don't know anyone here. The most common ones are homesickness and cultural shock," Nazam stated. "Moreover, students are also facing challenges in finding part-time jobs."

Despite the challenging and difficult journey of international students, their resilience and ambition coupled with the unwavering support of educational institutions will prepare them for a promising future. See full story at LethbridgeCampusMedia.ca.

Immigrants bolster labour shortage

Story by Mark Soliman

In the bustling halls of Lethbridge College, a quiet revolution is underway that seeks to break down barriers and build pathways to success for immigrants and international students aspiring to carve out careers in the trades industry.

At the heart of this initiative is a groundbreaking program that blends language education with hands-on apprenticeship training, offering a lifeline to individuals eager to thrive in their adopted homeland.

Kevin Wiber, associate dean for Lethbridge College Trades, brings the vision behind the Settlement Integration and Language Project (SILP) comes into focus. Wiber explains the program's core mission is to empower international students and immigrants with the linguistic and technical skills necessary to excel in the trades. This is a mission born out of a recognition of the formidable language barrier that often stands between newcomers and their aspirations.

"Our goal was clear," Wiber says. "To bridge the gap between language proficiency and trade competency. Traditional English as a Second Language programs fell short in preparing students for the nuanced communication demands of the trade's environment. SILP re-imagined this paradigm, offering a holistic approach that integrates language

instruction with practical trade experience."

Lui Kudyamat, a Filipino immigrant and participant in the SILP program, shares her journey from a furniture maker in the Philippines to an aspiring welder in Canada. Kudyamat's narrative underscores the transformative potential of initiatives like SILP in unlocking opportunities for immigrants to thrive in new vocations.

"Starting anew in Canada wasn't easy," Kudyamat reflects. "But programs like SILP offer a lifeline to individuals like me, providing not just language skills but a sense of belonging in the vibrant tapestry of Canada's trades industry."

Despite initial hurdles, SILP has witnessed remarkable success, with participants like Kajiyama making strides in their journey towards trade certification. Interviews with program coordinators and participants reveal a common thread of perseverance and resilience, as individuals from diverse backgrounds navigate the intricacies of trade education with unwavering determination.

As SILP continues to chart new frontiers in trade education, the impact reverberates far beyond the walls of Lethbridge College. With plans to expand and refine the program, stakeholders envision a future where immigrants and international students find not just jobs, but meaningful careers in Canada's thriving trades sector.

See the full story at LethbridgeCampusMedia.ca.



Lethbridge College has used government funding to help solve the demand in labour market shortage. Photo by Mark Soliman.

Live music is creating a new community

Story by Angie Wiebe

The crowd watches and listens as the sound of music fills the room. Up on the stage is a lone singer sharing their talent with everyone. This is a familiar sight at many different venues across Lethbridge. It shows the culture and hidden gems within the community. Lethbridge has multiple gems places for live music and events such as The Slice Bar and Grill, Owl Acoustic Lounge and Honkers Pub and Eatery.

The Slice Bar and Grill, more commonly referred to as the Slice, has been in Lethbridge since 2005. They have been hosting live music events and open jams since then. They host all genres of music from country, rock, pop, heavy metal and many more. Derek Hoyle, the manager at the Slice, says music is an art form just like painting and sculpting. He says the crowd who comes to these shows really depends on the genre and it changes from night to night.

One of the artists who plays at the Slice is Veronica Raine. She has been singing and writing songs since she was 13 and has been performing for equally as long. She does gigs throughout Lethbridge and also travels to Calgary to perform. She says there is also a great scene in Calgary for entertainment and live gigs.

Owl Acoustic Lounge is similar to the Slice, but they don't only host music events. They also have poetry, comedy, trivia and a variety of other events for the community to attend. Raine says she has a special connection to the Owl Acoustic Lounge because of her experiences there when she was a teenager.

The music community has come together with all the live events hosted in Lethbridge. Raine says it's great for community building and she loves to



Singer Veronica Raine shares a taste of her talent and music live at The Slice Bar and Grill in Lethbridge. Photo by Angie Wiebe.

see the same people at the events and get to know them.

With all the different artists and talented people in the community, events often show a taste of everything southern Alberta offers and let's people share their talents.

"I think it's such an opportunity of growth for us," says Raine.

There are many hidden gems in Lethbridge and as these places grow, more people will begin to find them. New bands are always emerging and the scene will continue to grow in Lethbridge and provide positive opportunities for the community. See the full story on LethbridgeCampusMedia.ca.

Modern rendition of Jesus Christ Superstar debuts at University of Lethbridge

Story by Laura Castro

The sounds of an electric guitar and snare drum fill the theatre. Intense operatic vocalists charm the ears of the audience. The spotlights dawn on the stage and the imagery captivates viewers to the edge of their seats.

The University of Lethbridge is bringing its rendition of a classic rock-opera to the stage. The fine arts department is putting a biblical story to music with its production of Jesus Christ Superstar. This show is based on the telling of Jesus leading up to his crucifixion and brings music from icon Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Geneva Murphy, who plays the role of Simon Zealotes says this show is unique in its theme and the dynamic musical numbers will be sure to blow audiences away.

"If you're interested in watching an early story from the bible told in a glamorous and campy light, then this is definitely the show for you," Murphy said.

With over 25 members in the cast, an array of crew members and a live orchestra, all hands are on deck to make this show a reality.

Cait Syrratt, ensemble member says the discipline and hard work from her castmates makes all the difference during rehearsals.

"Everyone just really wants to be there and there is this shared sense of responsibility that everybody is putting their best foot forward and so it just makes for a really easy rehearsal process," Syrratt said.

This rock opera is unique for the university with it being a musical and open to community members. The show has many production staff on board including director Doug McArthur who says he is excited to see the talented cast on the big stage.

Syrratt says the art form this show has crafted will leave a lasting impression on the community.



Grace Abbot stares at the fallen Emilio Caicedo caught by Samuel Kliever as they rehearse a fight scene on Feb. 28. Photo by Laura Castro.

"You get this amazing show that's really entertaining, but you also get this sense of effort and collaboration and it brings people together," Syrratt said.

Shows will run from March 12 to March 16 at the university theatre at 7:30 p.m. every night. Tickets are on sale on the university's website at uleth.universitytickets.com.

See more at LethbridgeCampusMedia.ca.



Becca Stirling (left) and Dan Stirling (right), owners of Purple Hippo Boutique, took over the gift shop business after volunteering for the previous owner. Photo taken by Winglee Cheng.

Mutual support between a local gift shop and artists

Story by Winglee Cheng

On a snowy Saturday in Lethbridge, a gift shop called Purple Hippo Boutique is bustling with activity. Cars are parked in front of the store, and inside, several customers are browsing the handcrafted goods under the warm light. The owner greets each customer as they enter.

Becca Stirling and her husband Dan are the owners of Purple Hippo Boutique. From handmade soaps to flickering candles, adorable stickers and wood decor, the store offers a delightful array of locally-made gifts. And the name of this store has an interesting story behind it.

"I wasn't the original owner. The previous owner was crocheting a purple hippopotamus while the song 'I Want a Hippopotamus for Christmas' played. She decided that would be the store's name," said Becca.

Becca was a vendor when the previous owner ran the business. Later, the owner found out it was too much for her to manage two stores, so Becca started volunteering. Then, the owner asked if Becca intended to take over and she quickly decided to do so.

When asked about a memorable moment, Becca described a conversation when two artists from Calgary dropped by. The artists are surprised with Purple Hippo's reasonable prices compared to stores in their home city. One artist initially worried about hidden fees was relieved after learning the store supports their vendors enthusiastically.

"It's the concept of supporting local. Ninety-five per cent of the vendors are from Lethbridge and surrounding areas. We take care of advertising, selling and everything else and the vendors to artisans don't have to venture," said Becca.

See the full story at LethbridgeCampusMedia.ca.

Local support keeps kitchens open

Story by Keira Astalos

Starting with one restaurant to now four one local business owner provides some great spots to eat all across southern Alberta. Ram Khanal is a highly successful businessman who wanted to work a job he was passionate about. He made his dreams a reality and created some culinary gems nine years ago.

"I was a Master of Business Administration student in management training for oil and gas and worked for an oil field company for a while but I never liked it. It was not my industry, there was a lot of money, but it was not for me. That day I said maybe I should excel in my career and build a business around things that I like. The moment I realized I did not like the career that I worked so hard for, that's when I made a change."

This life-changing revelation made him work hard to chase his dreams of opening his first restaurant and in 2015 he started the Cattlemen's Chophouse in Picture Butte. As he saw a lot of success in that first venture, he from there expanded very quickly and purchased the Telegraph Taphouse in downtown Lethbridge in 2017. Two successful years later he opened the Water Tower Bar and Grill in 2019 and now in 2023 he has expanded with the Cattlemen's Chophouse in Taber.

With Taber being a small town with not many fine dining experiences, the community has been incredibly welcoming and has shown the biggest support to the new joint. "This restaurant has grossed more money than all three of my previous restaurants," Khanal says.

With community playing such a crucial role in helping accomplish the success of locally-owned businesses, Steven Mack, the manager at Cattlemen's Chophouse Taber, says its important they try to give back to the community by supporting local.

"We try to use local as much as we can for example when building this place. We made sure that all the tables and chairs and a lot of the furniture



Ram Khanal and employee Brynn Keeler prep for a busy Friday at Cattlemen's Chophouse in Taber on Feb. 23. Photo by Keira Astalos.

we get from a local store in Lethbridge. That also goes with all the construction that was done by a local company from Taber. When it comes to the kitchen, we use local farmers for all our dishes that use fresh vegetables."

Supporting the community and the other local businesses in the region is important says Khanal. With the help from the public, all four of his restaurants have done very well. The restaurant business is not an easy one, but Khanal seems to have beaten the odds and proven otherwise. His hard work, dedication to community and passion for serving local produce has made him a thriving businessman in the Lethbridge area.



Lethbridge Hurricanes game day host, Cole Stefiuk, interviews forward Trae Wilke on Feb. 17 during one of many media events over the course of a game at the Enmax Centre. The interviews are used to enhance the overall game day experience for fans. Photo by Justin Sibbet.

Story by Justin Sibbet

As the light flicks red, a deafening horn is heard throughout the stadium in prelude to a pulsating rhythm and the roaring cheers of the crowd.

In Lethbridge, there are several teams with loyal fanbases willing to brave all forms of adversity just to experience the thrill of the sport. From the post-secondary Kodiaks and Pronghorns to the major junior Bulls and Hurricanes, teams in Lethbridge keep fans busy and entertained.

However, perhaps even busier than the cheering crowds are the unseen broadcasters as they create an unforgettable game day experience. The most heavily attended team in Lethbridge, the

Powering UP Local sports

Hurricanes, who compete in the Western Hockey League, have its game day operations overseen by a third-party company.

Steve Prankard, co-owner of Feature Productions, says it's his job to ensure fans are captivated at all times.

"That's something we, as a production crew, really try to work on," said Prankard.

He adds that sports are more than just a game, it is a way of life. "[Sports are] one of those things that bring people together," said Prankard. "I'm not even a hockey fan personally, but I love the environment and excitement of coming to a game. It's the popcorn, it's the beer, it's the energy in the building."

However, Prankard says his company does a lot more than just hockey. From mixed martial arts to professional rodeo, his team does it all, even if the cowboy-related events take up most of their time.

"I would say over 80 per cent of our business is now in the rodeo," said Prankard.

To read the full story, visit LethbridgeCampusMedia.ca.

Lethbridge having the ride of a lifetime

Story by Nakoda Thunderchief

Lethbridge witnessed a thunderous stampede as the Professional Bull Riders (PBR) Challenge bucked into town March 1-2, As adrenaline junkies from across the country gather for this event, fans were treated to an action-packed weekend with thrilling showdowns.

The PBR Challenge, famous for its electrifying atmosphere and daredevil participants, will bring top-notch bull riding excitement right in Alberta's backyard. Happening at. This has already excited so many people in town and rodeo lovers.

For Sarah Thompson, she says she has been following PBR events for several years. "I have been following PBR events for years and having it here in my own hometown is just amazing," she exclaimed. "There is nothing that can beat the exhilaration that comes from watching these riders who are so good in their game getting on the backs of mighty bulls. It's like a mixture of fear and anticipation that makes me want to go back again."

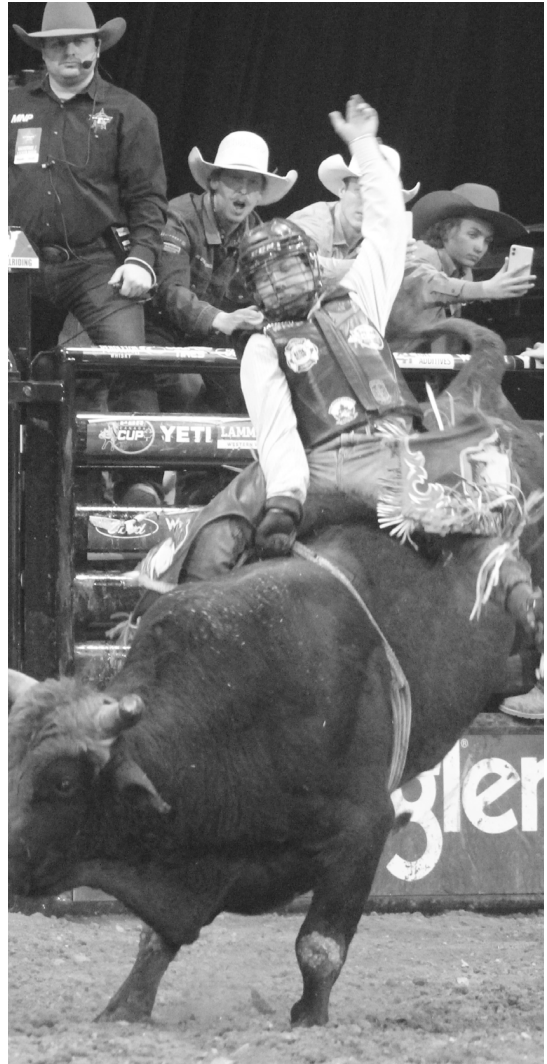
On another note, two-time PBR Canada Cup Champion Coby Coverchuk does not see Lethbridge's as an opportunity but also as a test of their ability as he sees each ride not as a competition against other riders, but against the bull.

"Everybody is different when it comes to getting into the zone, but for me it feels like a UFC fight between me and the bull for those eight seconds."

In addition to the pulse-pounding action within the arena, the PBR Challenge is also about celebrating rodeo heritage and promoting friendship among fans and riders alike. Attendees can get autographs the popular riders.

With sun setting over Lethbridge, things look somehow to crescendo as riders psych, themselves up for the encounter with some of the toughest bulls in the circuit. All around is thick anticipation as fans are anxious to see who will burst through the gates first.

Every eight second ride brings on cheers and claps from the audience, showing their gratitude



Coby Coverchuk riding Smoke Bomb at the Enmax Centre in Lethbridge on March 2. Photo by Nakoda Thunderchief.

for the cowboys skill and courage. After the dust settles on them after those final rides of the night one thing is clear. It's hard to imagine this PBR Challenge did not have a significant impact on the lives of several hundred southern Albertans.

Bulls charging into 25th season

Story by Brett Browne

Win or lose, the upcoming baseball season will be a special one for the Lethbridge Bulls.

The team is busy making plans to celebrate its 25th anniversary season, kicking things off June 5th with their home opener which takes place 25 years to the day the Bulls first took to the field.

Kevin Kvame, president of the Lethbridge Bulls, has been involved

with the team since its beginning. He thinks the upcoming season will be one of the best ever.

"It's not that we haven't had good ones in the past, but I think with the amount of attention we have going into the season, this year is going to be second-to-none and we're excited to celebrate our success with the community," he said.

According to Kvame, the Bulls actually got their start on a cold January night when he and team founder Doug Jones drove through the night to attend the annual meeting of the Saskatchewan Major Baseball League taking place the next day in Melville. Lethbridge was ultimately awarded a franchise and five months later the Bulls played their first game at what was then Henderson Stadium.

Kvame remembers the first few years were hard for the Bulls, with poor attendance and little community support. However, things started to turn around in 2002 when the team convinced the league to change its name to the Western Major Baseball League (now the Western Canadian Baseball League).



As the Lethbridge Bulls get ready to celebrate their 25th anniversary season Kevin Kvame, team president, looks back on some memories from seasons past. Kvame has been with the Bulls right from the start of the team. Photo by Brett Browne.

About the same time, the Medicine Hat Mavericks joined the league, giving the Bulls a much-needed local rival. Kvame says the fortunes of the team soon improved and the organization was able to grow and develop.

Kvame looks back at the Bulls first championship in 2015 as one of his fondest memories. Though they entered the playoffs with a vastly depleted line-up, the team pulled together to execute a

perfect nine win, no loss championship run.

"I was league president at that time and so I presented the trophy to our team for the first time. That was kind of nice," he related

One of those helping to organize 25th Anniversary celebrations for the Bulls, is Brent Radlinksy, game day operations and special projects manager. He says Bulls alumni will play a prominent role.

"A lot of guys stuck around Lethbridge over the years, especially the Canadian kids that played here, so they're around and we want to get those guys involved a lot more," he explained.

The Bulls will be unveiling a wall of fame and a special 25th anniversary logo that will feature prominently on team merchandise and new signage throughout the ballpark.

Radlinksy says the team's home schedule is also packed with special promotions and theme nights. Plus, he says fans will notice an improved game-day experience, including a new barbecue area.

"We want to get people to the park, not just for the game, but for a lot of fun," he said.

Full story at: www.LethbridgeCampusMedia.ca

Lethbridge College says farewell to its senior Kodiaks athletes in an emotional send off

Story by Zach Robinson

For the Lethbridge College Kodiaks, the winter season means saying farewell to players coming to the end of their college careers.

The sound of evening practices and roaring fans on game day in the Val Matteotti gymnasium will be a distant echo for multiple Kodiaks on the men's and women's teams across all major sports hosted by Lethbridge College. Reflecting on his time at the college, men's volleyball libero, Adam Boras, realized the approaching end to the season hadn't quite hit him yet. Now that the time has passed, he can appreciate the time spent playing volleyball.

"Now that the season is finished, I'm a mix of emotions. I feel grateful for my time as a Kodiak and reminiscent of all the good memories," said Boras.

"I'm also excited for the future. Volleyball has provided me with so much growth and opportunities that I can take into my life after my playing career is over."

These young athletes saying goodbye to the rest of their fellow players have the chance to leave with their heads held high. In celebration of the senior students leaving, a senior send-off night is held each year to show appreciation for the impact these individuals had on their teams and their coaches. This proves to be a high-emotion time of year, affecting all of those involved in Kodiaks athletics.

Greg Gibos, head coach of the men's volleyball team, always finds it difficult when it comes to players leaving. He has known some of these student athletes for 10 to 12 years, long before they were Kodiaks. After making these long-lasting con-

nections, Gibos says what he's going to miss most is seeing them every day.

"Each of these athletes brought such a unique element to the team. They were all amazing team-focused athletes and truly made their teammates better. They are great people and I'm going to miss the side conversations and inside jokes more than anything."

Regarding the send-off night itself, Boras says it was an emotional event along with his final game. Especially since he knew it was likely going to be his last time ever playing competitive volleyball.

Boras grew up in Lethbridge and his family has had a long history of playing the sport growing up through school until he ultimately connected with Gibos. Boras says he hopes the impact that he and his fellow retiring seniors leave is positive.

"I hope that my teammates felt inspired by some of the tips that I and the other seniors could leave with them. It seemed as though everyone was sad to see us go, but I know they will continue to find ways to grow as humans and as athletes."

Boras was a part of many highs and lows during his career, mentioning a highlight being the Kodiaks under-dog battle against Red Deer Polytechnic in November 2023 where they came out victorious.

Along with Boras, the men's volleyball team also says farewell to fellow libero, Sam Crighton and right-side Cole Hemmerling. Gibos hopes that these athletes will look back at their time at Lethbridge College as an incredible experience and if they choose to continue their volleyball careers, they will inspire the next generation of players.

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It doesn't quite feel real. This is my third year now, that's a lot of time spent doing the same things. It's definitely kind of a surreal feeling that I'll be stepping out of this.

Adam Boras